Just off to Tenbridge Wells to travel books & might look in on Lucy Bax: but shan't I subpoena!

Friday April 25 1930

"I don't think I can stand, even the Nicolsons, as hobbyists for three quarters of an hour" I said at 8.15.

"Well, we can always shut them off" said Leonard.

At 9 I left to my bit & said out, "By God, I call that first rate!" having listened to every word.

This is (for a wonder) literally true - How an Earth have you mastered the art of being rude, profane, humorous, arch, coy, & satirical, allegorical, intimate, profane, colloquial, Volume, sensible, practical & a dear old Shaggy sheep dog — on the wireless? We thought it a triumph: Harold's too.

And shall you be a Lady on Monday? I think I shall — a free tea or dinner. We might do somewhere. But let me know & I'll write it, as is possible, I stay here, walking the dogs & bringing back. Oh Lord — if I could finish this book!

V

(to 52 T.S)

30

Ethel has made me a declaration of violent but Platonic love.

Castle Hotel
Taunton

May 5th

Yes, you are to dine with us, not tea, & as early as you can, on Monday. Clive, I think & Lyn. So far, very good journey. And how lovely the Marlborough Downs are! Why put up with Kent Surrey? Then Bath: quite magnificat. Every street like Pope or Dryden: & everywhere Burke Lloyd or Sir Walter Scott. Windsor & Fanny (Wedgewood) Burney. I can't see why it isn't more famous than Cambridge & Oxford together. We went on to Bristol, & saw poor Mr Cleverdon; who bought

10 of the £6 limited Editn (wd. have liked mine. We
have made about £10 today, though the booksellers are
for the most part rude, ignorant, & out for lunch or tea
or something. Then we went to Wells. Saw Glastonbury
in the rain; & this Hotel warming had at Taunton. Also I
adore the life of hotels.—Indian Grey haired & tight ladies
with friend, all with wedding rings, & Dorothy dead
husband; & they begin at breakfast "O dear, Mummy
says the footman & the housemaid started Scarlet & fever the
very day dear Micky was going back to school"— So
that Peel England is incredibly prosperous: Eats
enormous plates of porridge & bacon: & how they talk.
The age of England becomes almost too much. Not a view
home: a bit of a rain. Even in the lounge here— tomorrow
we go to Exeter a friend. So no more. I'm so sleepy. V Virginia

we shall meet at dinner on Monday.
My cheeks are the colour of old soft shoes; red brown with touches of pure crimson on the nose.

Monday
of? May

Look - I put this nice ½ to warn
you of the antiquity of England is
inconceivable. What is to be done
about it? It must go on — (I'm
wanting for the clergyman to have
this W.C. vacant.) Have you ever
conceived the antiquity of England in a
thousand years? — Every inn we stay
at has been an inn since the
time of Arthur & Alfred. Here we
have come down in the world — bells
don't ring; hot water cold; but
Still a great air of the 18th
Century in the coffee room, where
we sit before a huge fire, with

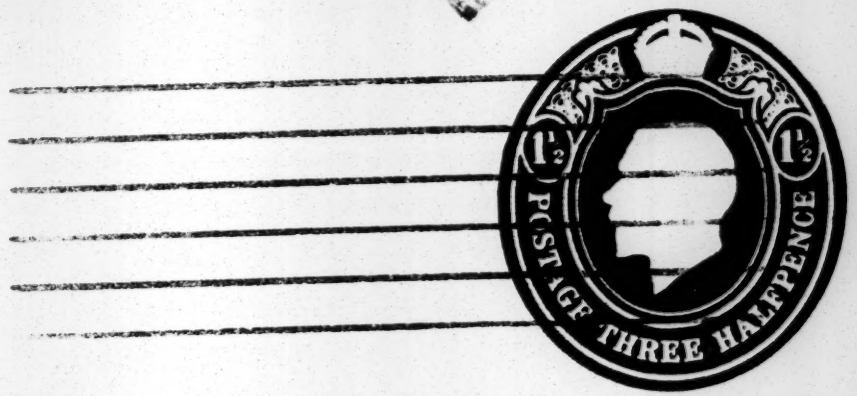
We have to come back a Sunday to
see Kessler – damn him.

TPL

The clergy & the travellers in biscuits.
Our sales have diminished steadily.
The bookseller are often very rude & I almost
loose his temper. They are all violently against
the Book Scout & say it's ruining
them. Then they won't listen when we say
the Edwardian is not worth book. They
say it's all a wash out & favouritism.
What's odd is that in Cornwall they live
entirely by selling Cornish novels; one small
shop yesterday had sold 2,000 by an
unknown (to me) man called Garstin. We
had a superb drive ~~over~~ from Penzance over
the moor to Zennor, all the gorse blazing
against a pure blue sea, to St Ives; when
I saw my Lighthouse, & the gate of my
home, through tears – thinking how my
mother died at my age; or next year to it –
Also we drove over Bodmin moor, solitary
comfortable, with an occasional ancient
cross. And now (if only the WC. were vacant)
we are off to Sherborne. Jeovil,
Salisbury V.

52, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
W.C.1.
TELEPHONE : MUSEUM 2621.

About 2,000 sold, not counting Book Club. Very good.
I think the other questions are answered.
2. says he told you he did not put in the
dash, for what reason I forget.
Week. We shall meet on Friday.
Endless rings, notes, expenses, & other
communications from E.S.
The says you say you have sold 170,000 of
Edwardians already.



Miss
Mrs. H Nicolson
Long Barn
Weald
Sevenoaks
Kent

Thursday

If you are coming up let me know. before
Every instant is snatched by Ethel. in
might do something nice - not buy food. this time.

Sales today "close on 300".
Let me know (as) when happy - but I'm
dazed with reading MSS. They flood in,
all owing to Ed's ads. One poor woman
thanks the Lord she completes her picture: about
6 foot remain to be read. — Poor dear Polly
has with the mange a bit now - do let me know,
as I am happy.

V.

The Hon
Mrs H. Nicolson
Long Barn
Wald
Sevenoaks
Kent